

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for broadcasting packets in a network that includes a plurality of switches. The network can logically be represented by a spanning tree plus cross-links. In order to avoid deadlock during a broadcast, a broadcast packet is sent from an originating switch to a root switch of the network, and a copy of the packet is sent from a current switch to all descendant switches when all copies of the packet have been received in the current switch.

CONFIDENTIAL